

One Hundred Seventh Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,
the third day of January, two thousand and one*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas a C-23 Sherpa National Guard aircraft crashed in south-central Georgia on March 3, 2001, killing all 21 National Guard members on board;

Whereas of the 21 National Guard members on board, 18 were members of the Virginia Air National Guard from the Hampton Roads area of Virginia returning home following two weeks of training duty in Florida and the other 3 were members of the Florida Army National Guard who comprised the flight crew of the aircraft;

Whereas the Virginia National Guard members killed, all of whom were members of the 203rd Red Horse Engineering Flight of Virginia Beach, Virginia, were Master Sergeant James Beninati, 46, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Staff Sergeant Paul J. Blancato, 38, of Norfolk, Virginia; Technical Sergeant Ernest Blawas, 47, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Staff Sergeant Andrew H. Bridges, 33, of Chesapeake, Virginia; Master Sergeant Eric Bulman, 59, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Staff Sergeant Paul Cramer, 43, of Norfolk, Virginia; Technical Sergeant Michael East, 40, of Parksley, Virginia; Staff Sergeant Ronald Elkin, 43, of Norfolk, Virginia; Staff Sergeant James Ferguson, 41, of Newport News, Virginia; Staff Sergeant Randy Johnson, 40, of Emporia, Virginia; Senior Airman Mathew Kidd, 23, of Hampton, Virginia; Master Sergeant Michael Lane, 34, of Moyock, North Carolina; Technical Sergeant Edwin Richardson, 48, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Technical Sergeant Dean Shelby, 39, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Staff Sergeant John Sincavage, 27, of Chesapeake, Virginia; Staff Sergeant Gregory Skurupey, 34, of Gloucester, Virginia; Staff Sergeant Richard Summerell, 51, of Franklin, Virginia; and Major Frederick Watkins, III, 35, of Virginia Beach, Virginia;

Whereas the Florida National Guard members killed, all of whom were members of Detachment 1, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation, of Lakeland, Florida, were Chief Warrant Officer John Duce, 49, of Orange Park, Florida; Chief Warrant Officer Eric Larson, 34, of Land-O-Lakes, Florida; and Staff Sergeant Robert Ward, 35, of Lakeland, Florida;

Whereas these members of the National Guard were performing their duty in furtherance of the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard, are routinely called upon to perform duties that place their lives at risk; and

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Whereas the members of the National Guard who lost their lives as a result of the aircraft crash on March 3, 2001, died in the honorable service to the Nation and exemplified all that is best in the American people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) honors the 18 members of the Virginia Air National Guard and 3 members of the Florida Army National Guard who were killed on March 3, 2001, in the crash of a C-23 Sherpa National Guard aircraft in south-central Georgia; and

(2) sends heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.